

Draft

ALEXANDRIA LHRC MINUTES (DRAFT)

November 16, 2005

PRESENT:

Rebecca Baird, Chair
Kelly Hauck, member
Scott Singleton, member
Gerylee Baron, member
Mary LoCicero, member
Jennifer Cohen-Cordero CSB representative
Tim Simmons, ~~SHRC~~ ^{LHRC} representative

ABSENT:

Naomi Cooper, member
(Excused)

Report from SHRC:

???

Report from CSB:

Jennifer reported on a complaint from a Detox consumer who claimed she was unfairly punished by a counselor and unfairly discharged from the program. Jennifer explained that this consumer had previous problems in Detox with sleeping during the day and entered into a contract with Detox not to sleep during the day without permission. The consumer was found to be sleeping during the day without permission and was disciplined and ultimately removed from the program. This consumer may re-enter the program if she agrees to abide by the behavior contract of not sleeping during the day without permission.

A consumer from the homeless shelter complained that she was sexually harassed by having an employee from the detox kitchen grab her around the waist. The consumer wanted to withdraw the complaint and the incident was found to be unfounded.

The family of a residential consumer who is provided day support filed a complaint that the consumer's day support employee accepted a free lunch from the consumer. An investigation revealed that the consumer and her support employee had been out in the community and the consumer was hungry and wanted to stop by McDonalds for dinner as opposed to going home to fix dinner. She and her day support counselor frequently fixed meals together as this was part of her plan to teach her to prepare meals. The consumer used a "buy one get one free" coupon and ultimately did not spend money of her own for the counselor's meal. The family provides monies to the consumer and when the consumer asked for more she revealed to her family that she had bought dinner for the day support counselor at McDonalds. The matter was investigated and the counselor was advised not to accept free meals from the consumer. A note was placed in the counselor's file. The family of the consumer, after hearing the results of the investigation were satisfied that no regulations were breached.

Jennifer reported on the progress of a consumer at Taylor Run who had an excessive weight gain because she was being enabled to procure large amounts of junk food while being out in the community. A plan was initiated that would limit, but not eliminate, the consumer's trips out in

the community to buy junk food. Jennifer reported that the consumer has lost some weight, although a specific amount was not reported.

Jennifer reported that the committee's suggestions arising out of Gerylee Baron and Scott Singleton's tour of the CSB facilities resulted in changes being made in the Seminary group Home policy of taking in sick consumers from other facilities during the day. Staff is attempting to keep sick MR consumers at their own group home for sanitary purposes as well as dignity and comfort issues for the consumers.

A summary of the issues raised in the tour was prepared by Jennifer and is adopted and made a part of these minutes.

Jennifer reported that a Ms. May was interested in jointing the LHRC and she was a health care provider. Ms. May formerly worked for the Alexandria CSB *NV-Regional*.

Committee Action:

The committee discussed waiving the fee for St. Colleta School for its affiliation with the Alexandria LHRC. Jennifer will discuss with St. Colleta if they are interested in this arrangement. Committee members were provided with and reviewed a copy of the Alexandria LHRC Affiliation Agreement.

The committee discussed implementing the changes to its By-Laws to reflect that the next member must be a health care provider.

Rebecca will look on the website for a list of affiliates.

Rebecca motioned the committee to amend the By-Laws to reflect that if a member has three unexcused absences in a one year period, that member can be removed from the Committee. Gerylee seconded the motion, all approved.

Rebecca motioned the committee to amend the By-Laws to reflect that a behavior plan can be approved for a temporary period of 30 days by the Chair or Vice Chair if a quorum is not present. _____ seconded the Motion and all approved.

No further business to be discussed Rebecca Baird moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Kelly Hauck.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Local Human Rights Committee Tour of CSB Facilities

Members of the Alexandria Local Human Rights Committee toured the following CSB facilities on September 14, 2005: Substance Abuse Services Center, Colvin Street, West End Club, Extended Care Administration Offices, PIE and Seminary Group Home. The LHRC is required to report their observations to the Board. Observations were made in the following areas: staff attitudes, posting of human rights, dignity or other human rights, furniture and other.

Staff Attitudes

Staff were described by the LHRC members as helpful, energetic, knowledgeable, caring, overworked and polite. LHRC members appreciated the time staff took to share information about the programs.

Posting of Human Rights

Human rights posters were easily located in all facilities. The LHRC recommended that the West End Club posters be moved to an area with heavier consumer traffic, such as the reception. Staff confirmed that the current locations are in fact heavy consumer traffic areas.

Dignity and Other Human Rights Issues

LHRC members noted that consumers were well-respected and well cared for. This observation was particularly true in the West End Club, Colvin Street and Seminary Group Home, where interactions with consumers were observed. One member noted that "consumers at the Clubhouse are clearly treated as equals".

LHRC members recommended that staff place a cover slip over the sign-in sheet located at the front desk of the West End Club in order to protect member confidentiality. Staff have done so, but are tracking how this change affects sign-in; as it is necessary for members to sign in so that the program is reimbursed by Medicaid.

LHRC members expressed concern about the use of the Seminary Group Home by consumers of other MR group homes who are too ill to attend their day program. Currently, Seminary is the only MR group home that remains staffed and open during the day. When consumers of other MR homes are ill and cannot attend work or their day program, they spend the day at Seminary. The LHRC stated that this is a violation of the dignity and privacy rights of the consumers who live in Seminary Group Home, and of those who are transported there, for the following reasons: 1) sick consumers are in the personal bedrooms and sleeping in the beds of other consumers while the others are out for the day, 2) sick consumers have to get up and get dressed when they are not feeling well so that they can be transported from their residence to the Seminary Group Home. LHRC members found that staff at Seminary do an excellent job maintaining the cleanliness of the group home including the changing of bed sheets several times a day. However, there are still health concerns due to new sets of germs continually being introduced to the environment.

In response to the concern about Seminary Group Home, staff are attempting to keep sick MR consumers at their own group homes. Staff will see how frequently this occurs, and what costs

are incurred from the need to staff the programs, which would otherwise not be staffed, during the day when sick consumers are home. If there is insufficient funding to sustain the practice of allowing sick consumers to stay at their homes, staff will propose another solution. Staff are gathering information on how this situation is managed at other CSB's.

Furniture

Group home furniture was described as sturdy and durable without appearing institutional. SA Outpatient furniture was described as adequate, decent and in good condition. West End Club and other King Street furniture was described as great, perfect and comfortable with a nice variety.

Other

LHRC members commented that the Colvin Street facility needs improvement for the following reasons: 1) the site feels like a warehouse and is messy, 2) consumers who are there all day in the vocational program are simply transported from one level to another for their break, and 3) the break area is not appealing and it is located in the same area where staff are trying to work in cubicles.

Staff are aware that the Colvin Street location is not ideal, and are looking for a new site. There is no outdoor or other area where consumers can take breaks. For the meantime, staff have addressed the comfort and appearance of the facility as best as possible and have made significant improvements from the pre-CARF state, including: fresh paint to replace the dull gray paint, new furniture from Ikea in the upstairs break area, pictures, consumer project boards and a garden for consumers in the front.

LHRC members:

- highly admired the Seminary Group Home Senior Counselor and the group home as a whole, with the exception of the beds being used for sick consumers
- appreciated the detailed explanation of the Methadone program and tour of the facility
- would like more time in Detox on their next tour- they felt rushed
- enjoyed the consumer-guided tour of the West End Club
- would want to live in Alexandria and receive CSB services if they were persons with MH/MR/SA needs